

1. (Twice Amended) A method for accounting for network usage comprising:
obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;
obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number and type of packets utilized by a user; and

correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record unique to said user by matching said accounting start-stop event data associated with said user with said network flow data associated with said user.

13. (Twice Amended) A method for accounting for network usage comprising:
parsing accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server on a prescribed time interval;

publishing said accounting start-stop event data on an information bus;
collecting network flow data from a network router and forwarding said network flow data to a network flow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number and type of packets utilized by a user;

aggregating said network flow data according to a prescribed aggregation scheme;
parsing said network flow data from said network flow collector;
publishing said network flow data on an information bus;

collecting said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data at a target device that subscribes to said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data; and

correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record unique to said user by matching said accounting start-stop event data associated with said user with said network flow data associated with said user.

14. (Twice Amended) A method for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data within a computer network comprising:

obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

84 obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through intermediary netflow collectors, said network flow data including data regarding the number and type of packets utilized by a user; and

correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a call detail record unique to said user by matching said accounting start-stop event data associated with said user with said network flow data associated with said user.

15. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for accounting for network usage comprising:

a means for obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

a means for obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number and type of packets utilized by a user; and

a means for correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record unique to said user by matching said accounting start-stop event data associated with said user with said network flow data associated with said user.

~~15~~¹⁶
16. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for accounting for network usage comprising:

a means for parsing accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server on a prescribed time interval;

a means for publishing said accounting start-stop event data on an information bus;

a means for collecting network flow data from a network router and forwarding said network flow data to a network flow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number and type of packets utilized by a user;

a means for aggregating said network flow data according to a defined aggregation scheme;

a means for parsing said network flow data from said network flow collector;

a means for publishing said network flow data on an information bus;

a means for collecting said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data at a target device that subscribes to said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data; and

a means for correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record unique to said user by matching said accounting start-stop event data associated with said user with said network flow data associated with said user.

17. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data within a computer network comprising:

a means for obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

AY a means for obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number and type of packets utilized by a user; and

a means for correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a call detail record unique to said user by matching said accounting start-stop event data associated with said user with said network flow data associated with said user.

~~17~~ 18. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for accounting for network usage comprising:

an accounting adapter in communication with accounting start-stop event data;

a network flow adapter in communication with network flow data, said network flow data including data regarding the number and type of packets utilized by a user; and

an integrating accounting adapter in communication with said accounting adapter and said network flow adapter which correlates said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record unique to said user by matching said accounting start-stop event data associated with said user with said network flow data associated with said user.

22. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data within a computer network comprising:

an accounting adapter in communication with accounting start-stop event data;

84 a network flow adapter in communication with network flow data, said network flow data including data regarding the number and type of packets utilized by a user; and

an integrating accounting adapter in communication with said accounting adapter and said network flow adapter which correlates said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record unique to said user by matching said accounting start-stop event data associated with said user with said network flow data associated with said user.

1723
23. (Twice Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for accounting for network usage, said method comprising:

obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;
obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number and type of packets utilized by a user; and
correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record unique to said user by matching said accounting start-stop event data associated with said user with said network flow data associated with said user.

24. (Twice Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data in a computer network, said method comprising:

AY obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;
obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number and type of packets utilized by a user; and
correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record unique to said user by matching said accounting start-stop event data associated with said user with said network flow data associated with said user.